

2020 was the pandemic year.

In 2020 besides that, Dan lost cousins Cynthia (nearly 91) and Bruce (77, traffic accident). Our planned European vacation had to be rescheduled to 2021. But we managed to have a small birthday party for Ruth in August, to get to Martha's Vineyard with our best friends Roger and Rita for ten days late in September to early October, and, in November, purchase a new 2021 Subaru Legacy sedan, and celebrate the defeat of Bone Spurs, the Party of Greed's malignant narcissistic sociopath & treasonous criminal presidential candidate. We fervently hope America will undo four years of damage and improve. Unfortunately, damage to the Federal Court system can't be undone except on a case-by-case impeachment basis, so it won't happen – except possibly in rare cases. As we send this he's still whining & lying that he won. And we will have to see how dislodging him plays out on Inauguration Day 2021.



With plenty of time on our hands, and it being advisable to stay at home, we did a lot of landscape work on our yard in 2020. In February, we made a rose garden. And in the summer, we managed to have much of the wooded lower-level portion of the yard cleared, dealing with huge felled tree trunks, limbs, brush, bramble, and things that had been improperly tossed there.

Below are Ruth with our new rose garden and on Gay Head Beach, Martha's Vineyard, and I'm at the "Jaws" inlet that separates Oak Bluffs from Edgartown also on MV.



And Roger & me squinting with the ladies at East Chop Light.



And here’s a great photo I took of our best friends Roger and Rita at the inlet leading to under the bridge famed in the film “Jaws”. She later posted it on Facebook to commemorate their 52nd wedding anniversary. Cape Pogue is on the horizon.

Not long after our Martha’s Vineyard getaway, we took foliage hikes near Graveyard Fields along the Blue Ridge Parkway (milepost 419) and outside Brevard NC at Pink Beds in the Pisgah National Forest.



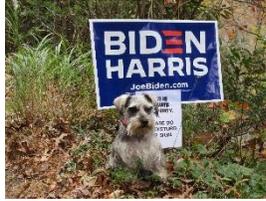
And we have a new grandniece! Kendall Olivia Sauer was born on September 15, to my sister Naomi’s son Steven and wife Lindsey, weighing in 7 pounds and measuring 19.25 inches. She joined sister Hayley (5) and brother Cameron 2½.

In October and November, I finally had cataract surgery. What an amazing difference to have the ability to view a brighter world full of more vibrant color! Cataracts tends to develop slowly, and often one is simply unaware of the gradual darkening and color shifting of one’s world. Thanks to modern medical science, I’m now able to see more beauty, clearly, all around. The procedures, two weeks apart on each eye, were painless. The improvements were practically immediate. How fortunate I am to live in these times!



Our nation’s choice in 2020 was between a malignant narcissistic sociopath criminal bully and a man with empathy. I have never before “gone political” in our holiday letter, but: As one who was born ethnically Jewish, and whose father’s relatives were murdered in the Holocaust, I simply must say that anyone who could vote for a man who was supported by people displaying nazi symbols (or confederate ones – supporting a system that exploited human slavery), a man who would not disavow such support, can never be a person I would regard as decent, or a friend. It is beyond dispute that slavery and genocide are evil; *they are not things people can agree to disagree about*. This malignant narcissistic sociopath *must* be prosecuted for his many crimes. Demagogues following must know they will pay the price.

We don't presently know, with the pandemic rearing its head for a "second wave" if we will get to take our postponed 2020 European vacation in 2021. We may know by mid-February. We would depart in June, but Cunard has already canceled sailings through April. We need clearance to enter England, Switzerland, France. Italy, and Portugal – and re-enter the USA.



In preparation we sold our Canon EOS T5 Rebel SRR camera outfit, because I decided it was simply too much to *schlep* around. The sale proceeds let us pick up a pair of palm-sized Canon Powershot ELPH cameras. Moxie with the Biden sign is a test shot I took with mine. Though North Carolina remained redneck by a slight margin, the Democratic Party carried the miniature schnauzer vote in the state.

Moxie proved once again how smart this breed is.

Our 2020 holidays were strange. We lost our daughter in 2019. With the pandemic, we couldn't go to homes of others or have others in ours. And even when dinner out is possible on Thanksgiving, or even Christmas, it is always a disappointment. For Thanksgiving, Ruth nonetheless made a wonderful Turkey dinner, but using parts, not a whole bird. And on Christmas, Ruth and I exchanged a few gifts. On January 20, just after the inauguration, we'll pop the cork on a bottle of champagne.

We signed to purchase our new 2021 Subaru Legacy, Premium model loaded with all the options, features and accessories we wanted – and with myriad marvelous safety features. Delivery should be by the day before Christmas or a week into January. We may make one change to it: Upholstery from cloth to leather. Then we'll sell our 2012 Legacy.



This is only the 3rd new car either Ruth or I've bought. In 1962 I got a new Plymouth Valiant. In 1968 Ruth got a Ford Mustang, in 1982 we got a new Subaru SUV. It should last until we're no longer driving. It'll look like this, with no moon roof (didn't want) and with chrome side window deflectors (wanted). It'll have Ruth's Welsh dragon emblem on the front license plate holder. Also, without heated steering wheel & rear seat, & turbocharged engine (don't need & better mileage). \$4K less than "Limited" model; cloth to leather would cost about \$1,500 later (or we could put clear vinyl over the cloth).



We don't know what it may take to get Bone Spurs out of the White House (unless he's already fled to avoid US justice – that too is in doubt because he's both too arrogant to think he can be punished & too stupid to realize that he can). I imagine a peaceful transfer of power, this way. Hamberder.



Ruth made a Thanksgiving dinner for two – turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, spinach casserole, rolls, & cranberry sauce. Then we sat by our fire pit on an unusually warm November night. We were stuffed & had the apple pie *a' la mode* for Friday's breakfast.



And because it was a perfect, and unusually warm day on Thanksgiving Friday, we took a 2.6-mile hike with Moxie to Catawba Falls.

If we do take our postponed European vacation, we'll have *beaucoup* photos to show, links to slideshows, and tales to tell in next year's annual letter. Until then, please keep well and be happy.

Meanwhile, we leave you with a Christmas present:



Love, *Dax & Ruth Tanner*